



Irrigated Lands

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Valley Region

Interagency Coordination

On 5 December 2002, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) adopted Resolution No. R5-2002-0201 and an associated conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements (WDRs) for discharges from irrigated lands to surface waters. At the December meeting, the Regional Board directed staff to consider public comments and issues raised on the December 2002 waiver and provide options and recommendations that could address them. The Regional Board also directed staff to start developing a longer-term program and to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the program. Modifications to the waiver were proposed in April 2003, and based upon further public comment and Regional Board direction, further modifications were proposed in June 2003. On 10 July 2003, Resolution R5-2002-0201 was rescinded and on 11 July 2003, Resolution No. R5-2003-0105 was adopted by the Regional Board. Resolution No. R5-2003-0105 adopted two Conditional Waivers - one Conditional Waiver is for Coalition Groups or other entities that form on behalf of individual Dischargers to comply with the California Water Code and the Regional Board Plans and Policies, and the other is for individual Dischargers. Waiver conditions include water quality monitoring and implementation and evaluation of management practices.

Interagency coordination is an important priority to the Regional Board. Regional Board staff, as well as other entities, is working to inform the estimated 25,000+ landowners and operators affected by the recent developments in the regulation of discharges from irrigated lands. It is important that federal, state and local agencies with responsibilities and/or existing efforts relative to addressing nonpoint source pollution, resource management and agricultural production are informed as well. Further, through information sharing between these agencies, opportunities for coordination may emerge, and it can ensure that efforts are not being duplicated. To this end, Regional Board staff would like to work through the **Agricultural Subcommittee** of the **Interagency Coordinating Committee** (IACC) the State Water Resources Control Board established for the Nonpoint Source Program.

Regional Board staff would like to meet with the Agricultural Subcommittee in mid to late November. A tentative meeting date is November 17. Proposed agenda topics include:

- Brief agency representatives on status of waivers and long term program development.
- Identify program needs (i.e., tools the Regional Board, Coalition Groups and individual Dischargers will need in addressing the program). This is where the group can begin exploring potential opportunities for coordination.

The following is the preliminary list of agencies that will be contacted:

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| The California Resources Agency | US Environmental Protection Agency |
| CA Department of Conservation | US Fish and Wildlife Service |
| CA Department of Fish and Game | Natural Resource Conservation Service |
| CA Department of Water Resources | US Bureau of Reclamation |
| CA Department of Pesticide Regulation | County Agricultural Commissioners |
| CA Department of Food and Agriculture | CA Assoc. of Resource Conservation Districts |

Suggestions on agenda topics are welcome, as well as suggestions on other agencies that should be contacted. Please contact any of the following if you are interested in participating (and provide preferred dates) and/or have suggestions:

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